



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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April 30, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT S. 456, THE GANG ABATEMENT AND PREVENTION ACT
OF 2007, (ITEM NO. 81-B, SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA OF MAY 1, 2007)**

Item No. 81B, on the May 1, 2007 Supplemental Agenda, is a motion by Supervisor Antonovich that the Board support S. 456 (Feinstein, D-CA and Hatch, R-UT), the Gang Abatement and Prevention Act of 2007 and send five-signature letters supporting the bill to members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, and the California Congressional delegation.

S. 456 is comprehensive anti-gang legislation, which would establish new Federal criminal gang offenses, impose harsher penalties to deter and punish members of illegal gangs, and authorize more than \$1 billion in funding, subject to available annual appropriations, for gang enforcement, prevention, and intervention programs over five years. Its major provisions include:

- Make it a Federal crime to participate in criminal street gangs or to recruit minors into such gangs;
- Establish tougher penalties for violent gang crimes, such as the possibility of life imprisonment for murder, kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse, or maiming;

- Permit wiretaps to be used for the investigation of gang crimes;
- Authorize \$500 million over five years for a newly established High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Area (HIIGAA) Program, which funds: (1) collaborative Federal, State, and local working groups to investigate and prosecute gangs and provide community-based intervention and prevention services to at-risk youth in heavily gang-impacted areas located within one or more states; (2) a new national gang activity database; (3) a new National Gang Research, Evaluation, and Policy Institute; and (4) up to 94 additional Assistant United States attorneys who would be assigned to HIIGAA's.
- Authorize \$100 million over five years for grants to state and local governments to hire additional prosecutors to allow more cases to be prosecuted to reduce backlogs and fund technology, equipment, and training to increase the identification of gang members and maintain databases to facilitate coordination among law enforcement and prosecutors;
- Authorize \$100 million over five years for the Project Safe Neighborhoods Program to assist United States attorneys in increasing Federal investigations and prosecutions of criminal street gangs;
- Authorize \$50 million over five years to expand the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Safe Streets Program to investigate and prosecute criminal street gangs; and
- Authorize \$270 million over three years to provide protection for witnesses in state and local trials involving homicide or other major violent crimes.

The County's Sheriff and District Attorney support S. 456. The bill would provide increased Federal funding for anti-gang efforts in Los Angeles County, and reduce County criminal justice costs to the extent that it results in increased Federal prosecutions and incarceration of gang members who, otherwise, would be prosecuted for state crimes. The magnitude of its impact on the County largely will depend on the amount of funds that actually are appropriated for its programs in annual appropriations bills.

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Support for S. 456 would be consistent with policies in the Board-adopted Federal Legislative Agenda supporting "increased Federal involvement and funding to reduce gang-related crimes, and increased Federal funding for juvenile justice programs which promote a balance between punitive intervention efforts and prevention investments."

S. 456, which was introduced on January 31, 2007, has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has not yet scheduled any hearings. On March 20, 2007, Representative Schiff (D-CA) introduced an identical bill (H.R. 1582), which was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MT:acn

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Sheriff
 District Attorney
 Probation Department
 Public Defender